

"A Biblical Template for Overcoming Temptation," Part 3 - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 – August 23rd, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled, "A Biblical Template for Overcoming Temptation."
- What we're seeing here in our text are practical ways that we as Christians can overcome temptation, and be victorious in trials.
- Before we look at our third practical way to overcome temptation, I'd like to briefly look at the first two by way of an introduction.

1. Never let your guard down

- In the first part of verse 12 we found our first practical way to overcome temptation, and it's that of never letting our guard down.
- Often times we're prone to let our guard down when we think we're standing firm and strong in that particular area in our lives.
- I would suggest that we are the most vulnerable in falling to temptation in the areas of our greatest strengths and successes.

2. Don't believe Satan's lies

- In the first part of verse 13 we find our second practical way to overcome temptation, and it's that of not believing Satan's lies.
- One of the most successful lies of the devil as the father of lies is that since you're already tempted, you have already sinned.
- The fact of the matter is nothing could be further from the truth. It is not a sin to be tempted; it's only a sin when we fall into it.

3. Stick to God's Word

- In the last part of verse 13 we find our third practical way to overcome temptation and it's that of sticking to the Word of God.
- Paul says that God is faithful when we are tempted in that He will not allow us to be tempted above that which we can bear.
- And, the way God does that is He gives us a way out, or if you prefer, an escape route, so that we can endure and overcome it.

- The question becomes, what is the escape route out that God gives us? The answer to that question is simply the Word of God.

- When Jesus was tempted, He overcame the temptation by quoting the scriptures, which is why He was able to resist the devil.

Luke 4:1–14 (NIV) — 1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" 5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" 9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 12 Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. 14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

- The Apostle Paul in writing to the church in Ephesus uses the metaphor of a soldier's armor, and likens God's Word to a sword.

Ephesians 6:10–17 (NIV) — 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- It's interesting to note the sword of the Spirit as the Word of God is the only offensive weapon in the Apostle Paul's metaphor.
- In other words, everything else is defensive when the attack comes, but the Word of God is the only thing we have offensively.
- The reason I point this out is the Word of God is the deciding factor when it comes to overcoming the temptation of the devil.

- I don't know if it's possible to overstate the paramount importance of sticking to God's Word especially when we're tempted.
- The only way for us to be victorious is to stick to God's Word and never retreat, which is why there's no armor for our backside.
- We have another interesting example of this with one of David's mighty men in 2 Samuel, which we completed two weeks ago.

2 Samuel 23:9–10 — 9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated. 10 He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

- The detail we're given here about this Eleazar is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is he didn't retreat.
- Another interesting detail that's given is that his hand stuck to the sword until the Lord brought about a great victory that day.
- So too will God bring about a great victory for us, when we like Eleazar, don't retreat and stick to the sword of the God's Word.